

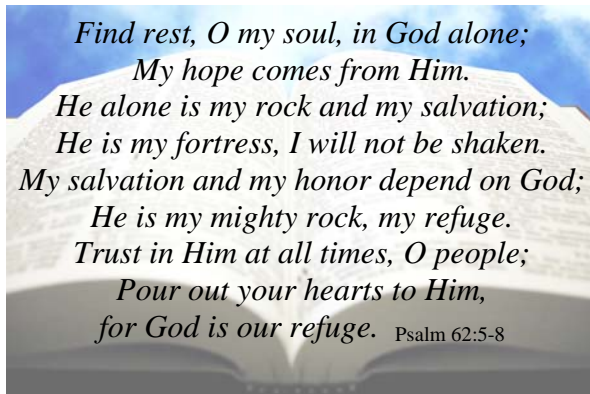
# Sound Off

Winter—Spring 2008/2009



Sounds of Hope in Jesus Christ

## My Hope Is in The Lord



We have just come through a historic election that has left many with huge questions about the future. What will happen to our economy? Will terrorism ever stop? Where are our morals and ethics headed? What will be the prevailing values driving our culture? Will God ever revisit us with revival? I don't know the answers to those questions, but of this I'm certain: God is still in control! Thank you, Lord!

On November 5th, the morning after the election, I woke up with the opening words of one of Norman Clayton's hymns on my mind: "My hope is in the Lord . . ." It is comforting to remember that our hope is not in political systems, "we trust in the name of Lord our God"—Psalm 20:7. Clayton's hymn is set in the New Testament, at the same time solidly anchored throughout Scripture—particularly the Psalms. The Psalmists knew huge difficulties and challenges, but they also knew that God was indeed seated on His throne and in control. They ran to God for strength, refuge and guidance. In Psalm 73, Asaph said, "God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever."

Do you remember David's question in Psalm 11:3, "When the foundations are being destroyed, what can the righteous do?" He had already answered that question in his opening statement "In the Lord I take refuge." There is little question that the foundations of our country are under attack today. While this can be pretty unsettling, we remember that the foundation of our faith is anchored in the eternal God—Who never changes. So, we say with David, "The Lord is in His holy temple; the Lord is on His heavenly throne. He observes the sons of men; His eyes examine them." Psalm 11:4 & 5

Listen to David: "To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul; in You I trust, O my God. Do not let me be put to shame, nor my enemies triumph over me. No one whose hope is in You will ever be put to shame, but they will be put to shame who are treacherous without excuse. Show me Your ways, O Lord, teach me Your paths; guide me in Your truth and teach me, for You are God my Savior, and my hope is in You all day long. . . May integrity and uprightness protect me, because my hope is in You." Psalm 25:1-5 & 21

## A Very Good Year!

In 2008, we have been blessed with an active schedule of ministry. This has greatly encouraged our hearts, confirming God's direction to continue this traveling ministry.

All of February and March, I directed the public services for the Bible Conference at Park of the Palms in Keystone Heights, FL. While there, I had the added privilege of preaching a couple of times when speakers had to cancel at the last minute. I also went to Lakeland to do a mid-week concert at Light & Life Free Methodist Church. Sharon and B. J. were able to be with me for two weeks in February. I look forward to being part of the Park of the Palms Bible Conference again in February & March of 2009.

In the following months, our concert ministry took me to Murphy, NC; Traverse City and Muskegon, MI (at Maranatha Bible Conference); Lombard, Rantoul, and Winfield, IL; Elkhart, IN and Newton, IA. Some of those included preaching as well.

Sharon and I did presentations at three Joni & Friends Chicago events in the area, a ministry so very dear to our hearts.

There were seniors events in Park Ridge, Downers Grove, Wheaton, Orland Park, Oak Park, and Aurora, IL; Williams Bay, WI; East Souderton, PA (at Pinebrook Bible Conference); and Dayton, OH.

I lead music for two family camps in Michigan: Somerset Beach Free Methodist Camp, just south of Jackson, and Eaton Rapids Holiness Camp, near Lansing.

We had two recording sessions for "Songs In The Night" and a couple choral sessions for Hope Publishing Company, where our SSM Board chairman, Jack Schrader, has been the Executive Editor. By the way, be sure to check when "Songs In The Night" is aired in your area. That website is: [www.moodychurch.org/radio/stations.php](http://www.moodychurch.org/radio/stations.php).

I also participated in more than a dozen funerals, singing for two very special funerals on the same day. 102 year old Genevieve Miller had been Sharon's mother's Sunday School teacher—a long time ago. The other was our dear friend and former Sound Servant Ministries Board member, Charles Strobeck. He was a tremendous help and inspiration to us for well over 30 years. We will miss him greatly!

Dare I tell you that amid all that and more, I took a little time out in late April to have a very mild heart attack. Once again, God dealt kindly with me in that there was no permanent damage—another reminder that He must increase, and I MUST decrease—my application of John 3:30.

We thank the Lord for these opportunities to serve and minister in His name. Thank you for standing with us by praying that God will continue to provide open doors for service and give us the wisdom and strength to serve Him well.



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## Ministry Opportunities

The following are open to the public unless the activity or notation suggests otherwise. Dates frequently change and new dates will be added. Our website has the most up-to-date itinerary, [www.burtkettinger.com](http://www.burtkettinger.com). In addition, keep an eye on the newspapers and an ear to your local Christian radio station.

### December

- 3 Windsor Park Manor - 6:30 PM Vespers Concert  
Carol Stream, Illinois
- 4 Chain of Lakes Community Church - 11 AM  
Pace Setter's Concert/Luncheon  
Lake Villa, Illinois
- 5 First Evangelical Free Church - 6:00 PM  
Maranatha Adult Bible Fellowship Dinner  
Rockford, Illinois
- 6 First Church of the Nazarene - 12 Noon  
Senior's Luncheon/Concert  
Lemont, Illinois
- 7 Evangelical Free Church - 6:00 PM  
Hymn Sing - Leading the Sing  
Wheaton, Illinois
- 9 Grace Bible Church - 10:45 AM  
Keenagers Concert/Luncheon  
Elmhurst, Illinois
- 11 Edgewood Baptist Church - 11:30 AM  
SecondWinder's Luncheon/Concert  
Rock Island, Illinois
- 12 Harbert Community Church - 6:30 PM  
Banquet/Concert  
Harbert, Michigan
- 14 Free Methodist Church - 10:30 AM Concert  
Winona Lake, Indiana
- 14 Elim Evangelical Free Church - 5:00 PM  
Family Banquet/Concert  
Oak Lawn, Illinois
- 21 Addison Street Community Church - 10 AM Concert  
Chicago, Illinois

### January

- 11 Trinity Baptist Church - 10:45 AM Concert  
Harriman, Tennessee
- 13-18 Wesleyan Village - Camp Meeting  
Leading singing/providing special music  
Brooksville, Florida

### February

- 1 Evangelical Free Church - 6:00 PM  
Hymn Sing—Leading the Sing  
Wheaton, Illinois
- 7 (thru March 19) Park of the Palms Bible Conference  
Leading public services  
Providing special music  
Keystone, Heights, Florida
- 21 & 22 Plantation Baptist Church  
7:00 PM Saturday Concert  
9:00 AM Sunday Special Music  
Plantation, Florida
- 27 Florida Holiness Association - 7:00 PM Concert  
Lakeland, Florida

## Does your church need:

- A sacred concert for a worship service or other event?
- Pulpit supply?
- Music leadership, preaching and/or special music for a revival, Bible or missions conference or retreat?
- A narrator or soloist for a musical presentation?
- A seniors' occasion—perhaps a musical trip "Down Memory Lane"?

Give Burt a call! He is comfortable with young and old, and always eager to communicate the love of Christ and His claims upon people's lives. Teamed with a speaker, Burt has an insatiable "John the Baptist complex"—he delights to "prepare the way" for the presentation of God's Word.

## Sound Off via Email

Remember that *Sound Off* can be received via Email in .pdf format. This saves both time and postage. If you are able/willing to try receiving *Sound Off* this way, please Email us and we'll return a trial copy to make sure this will work for you.

If you are already receiving *Sound Off* by Email and have changed your address, please be sure we have the update.

## Our 40th Anniversary!

Our daughter, Shauna and her family took B. J. for a few days while Sharon and I enjoyed a breakaway in southwestern Michigan—where we did much of our courting. We praise the Lord for His unfailing love and faithfulness to us throughout these years, and we look forward to growing old together—someday! Meanwhile, life is full with the delights of family and ministry.



## What Next, B. J.?

This is B. J.'s last year in high school. He will finish in May. To say the least, we are very proud of him! He loves to learn and loves school. Frankly, we're saddened to see this chapter of his life end. He will move into the school district's transition program. The emphasis is on community involvement and job coaching. He'll be part of "transitions" until his 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday.

Through school, B. J. is working two jobs for the second year, one in a restaurant and the other at a retirement center. Both jobs have possibilities for continuation after high school is finished. He's been involved in Special Olympics track and softball, as well as golf, wrestling and band—playing drums.

He LOVES music and LOVES to beat the drums—his drum set at home is well muted! He is frequently in his room with his CD blasting and keeping time with the drums. Often, he improvises with a pretend microphone and sings along. His singing blesses, and amuses, us greatly. He brings new meaning to "a joyful noise." Recently, a friend asked if B. J. stood for "Blessed by Jesus." That works for us—though he's still our "Bundle of Joy" too. Thank God for B. J.!

